



Delaware-Maryland Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Testimony prepared for the
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
and
Budget and Taxation Committee
on
Senate Bill 528
February 15, 2022
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to advocate for good stewardship of creation. I am Lee Hudson, assistant to the bishop for public policy in the Delaware-Maryland Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We are a faith community in three ELCA synods in every part of our State.

The ELCA identified greenhouse gases as pollutants because of their deleterious effects on climate in 1993. ("Caring for Creation," ELCA 1993 assembly) As a member of the Lutheran World Federation, a global communion of churches, the ELCA is urged to advocate, with faith colleagues and civil society partners and committed peoples, "environmental care and protection." (LWF assembly, 2017)

As greenhouse gas emissions surpass what the known environment will tolerate, food, safety, civic and economic life are at risk everywhere. Earth's atmosphere, soils and seas are not subdivided by national boundaries.

The human community must now rapidly develop and deploy policies that can diminish the catastrophic occurring regularly all around us. The cost of attending to climate disaster already exceeds the cost of policy adjustment. That calculation only gets worse from now on. We're financing fixes for what our energy regime is destroying.

We support accelerating the rate at which renewables are brought into the energy market to scale new, clean generation capacity.

We support recruiting State finance, capital expenditure, and procurement to meet a net-zero emission standard. The public investment will benefit everyone and every part of the State commons and public good.

We support using available efficiency technology to reduce current energy consumption.

We support hedging risk for communities and locations vulnerable to the deleterious climate effects plainly observable.

We support more restrictive allowances for greenhouse gas emissions.

We support accelerating the rate at which GGRs are achieved.

Because the time to transition to a different energy regime is nearly up, we support **Senate Bill 528**. We implore your favorable report.

Lee Hudson

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